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TAB B

CIA Collection Activities Against the Soviet Guided Missile Program

AQUATONE

Sporadically Since late June 1956 very high altitude penetration and peripheral flights have been made against the Soviet Union in order to collect both photographic and electronics intelligence (ELINT). This activity, known as AQUATONE, to date has covered approximately with usable photography/fourteen per cent of the total area of the USSR bringing to the intelligence community an unparalleled quantity of completely reliable information. The U-2 aircraft used in this operation is capable of carrying equipment utilizing a variety of techniques to provide photography of varying scales, electronics intelligence of various frequencies as well as communications intelligence of selected frequency bands. Results thus far from AQUATONE operations have brought about major revisions in intelligence estimates pertaining to: (1) the Soviet air defense system; (2) the Soviet atomic energy program; and (3) the Soviet guided missile program. Specific guided missile targets covered include: (1) the test ranges at Tyura Tam (earth satellite and TCRM launch) and Kapustin Yar (short and mid-range launch); (2) the central portion of the Kamchatka peninsula area (regarded as representing the ICHM impact area); (3) probable missile installations in the southern Crimea; (4) the surface-to-air missile

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CIA Collection Activities Against the Soviet Guided Missile Program (continued)

defense rings at Moscow; and (5) other installations possibly related to guided missiles. The data relative to Tyura Tam and Kapustin Yar have been reviewed by US experts who conclude that the facilities "represent a capability and potential that is generally equivalent, and in some respects superior, to that of the US." Much remains to be known concerning the USSR missile and recoverage program and, accordingly, AQUATONE plans for future coverage/of appropriate geographic areas have been developed. AQUATONE is regarded unanimously as one of the most potent collection assets in being in the intelligence community. Given political permission for future use it is believed capable of not only further defining the Soviet research and development effort in the guided missile field but revealing vital information concerning Soviet IRPM and ICEM launch sites.

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